

"What I have given back to America is nothing compared to what you do."

— GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER speaking about American immigrants serving in the U.S. military

An American dream

Schwarzenegger helps welcome fellow immigrants to citizen status

BY SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
Editor

Several Depot Marines were among 207 service members who became American citizens Jan. 30 in a mass naturalization ceremony hosted by the Marine Corps and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service at Camp Pendleton's South Mesa Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club.

Cpl. Renison S. Kirton, administrative clerk, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion and Sgt. Kent Sabido, drill instructor, Company G, were among those service members who participated in the ceremony and added their names to the list of more than 13,000 military men and women who have applied for citizenship since the naturalization process became simplified by an executive order signed by President Bush July 3, 2002.

The order waives the three-year residency requirement for military personnel and authorizes all non-citizen active duty service members serving on and after Sept. 11, 2001 to apply for citizenship because they are serving during a period of armed conflict.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was the guest speaker at the ceremony, and he offered some insight into his experiences as an immigrant.

"You came here with a dream of a better life, and I can relate to that ... Twenty years ago, I lived out my dream to become an American citizen, and it's fantastic that I'm able to celebrate this great day with (you)," he said.

Schwarzenegger, who was born in Austria, became an American citizen in 1983. His speech focused on the American dream and the importance of a citizen giving back



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger speaks at a mass naturalization ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 30. More than 200 service members from 43 countries became American citizens at the ceremony. Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke/Chevron

to his country. He talked about the success he has enjoyed as a body-builder, an actor and a businessman and how that success compelled him to contribute and 'give back' to his country.

"What I have done—what I have given back to America is nothing compared to what you do. You are

fighting for this country, and that is extraordinary. For that, I applaud you," Schwarzenegger said as his words were met with resounding cheers and applause.

The Hollywood star-turned-governor's presence and words made the ceremony more special for some

SEE **Citizens**, pg. 2

Depot Dental promotes good habits for Children's Dental Health Month

BY LT. THOMAS MULLEN
MCRD Dental Clinic

Tooth decay is still the most common chronic childhood disease that will not resolve without treatment. Children need strong, healthy teeth to chew their food, speak and have a good-looking smile. Total health, both physical and mental, is enhanced through good dental health habits learned early and reinforced throughout life.

With these facts in mind, the American Dental Association has declared February as Children's Dental Health Month.

All Naval Dental Center Southwest dental commands, including Branch Dental Clinic Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, wholeheartedly support the ADA in this endeavor.

"Children's dental health is extremely important, and Children's Dental Health Month is a worthwhile event," said Cmdr. Jerome McSwain, clinic director, MCRD Dental. "We will allocate time and personnel to contact

SEE **Dental**, pg. 2



PARADE REST

Company I recruits stand at parade rest during Company I's Battalion Commander's Inspection. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron



**FEBRUARY:
NATIONAL
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

3



CARED FOR

Dropping off kids? For decades, the Child Development Center here has been more than a day care.

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AUDIBLE FROM SCRIMMAGE

Find out what MCCA is doing to your sports program.

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children and parents in our community with the good news of oral hygiene.”
MCRD Dental plans to attempt to contact 1,200 children in February, by providing toothbrushes, dental floss, oral hygiene instruction, classroom presentations, healthy smile coloring sheets and a poster contest.

Since 1941, the observance has grown from a two-city event into a nationwide program.
The annual observance of children’s dental health began as a one-day event in Cleveland Feb. 3, 1941. During that year, Feb. 3 to Feb. 7 was designated as Children’s Dental Health Week in Akron, Ohio.

The ADA held the first national observance of Children’s Dental Health Day Feb. 8, 1949. The single-day observance became a week-long event in 1955. In 1981, the program was extended to a month-long celebration known today as National Children’s Dental Health Month. National messages reach millions of people in communities across the country and at numerous armed service bases abroad.

Children’s smiles can remain healthy with regular dental checkups and good oral hygiene.

Here are some tips to ensure children’s healthy smiles will last a lifetime:

- The ADA recommends a visit to the dentist within six months of the eruption of the first tooth, and no later than the child’s first birthday.
- Never allow an infant to nurse continuously from a bottle of milk, formula, sugar water or fruit juice during naps or at night. Serious



The Depot dental clinic hopes to give toothbrushes, floss, and oral-hygiene presentations to 1,200 children in February. *Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron*

“baby bottle tooth decay” can be a result.

- Parents need to brush and floss their child’s teeth as soon as they come in. Children can learn to do this for themselves at about age 7.
- When a child’s permanent molars come in, ask about sealants if the pits and fissures in the teeth are deep.

- Allow children to chew only sugarless gum. Avoid lollipops and other sticky candy.
 - If a child plays sports, make sure he or she always wears a mouth guard.
- For any additional information, contact Navy Lt. Thomas Mullen by calling the MCRD Dental front desk at (619) 524-4009.

SAFETY What’s your story?

Navy wants participants to share safety successes

NAVAL SAFETY CENTER
safetycenter.navy.mil

There is a new page on the Naval Safety Center’s Web site that intends to share “1,001 Safety Success Stories” from activities throughout the Navy and Marine Corps.

Developing new approaches to combat the hazards facing Navy and Marine Corps personnel has produced a wide array of “success stories,” from innovative problem-solving strategies to new technologies and award-winning safety and health programs. These stories are examples of the continuing efforts of the Navy and Marine Corps community to incorporate safety and health practices into job functions. The 1,001 Safety Success Stories showcase the many accomplishments of the Navy and Marine Corps community.

To date, there are 110 success stories on a variety of topics, ranging from local hazard corrections and innovations to major changes in how a command manages its safety programs. Visit this new site at safetycenter.navy.mil/. On the Web page, there is a story index and executive summaries of each story. For example, there is a success story about how the medical department at Navy Recruit Training Center Great Lakes, Mich., recognized a link between the safety boots issued to new recruits and foot and leg injuries experienced by recruits during basic training. Following an extensive study, the Navy developed a much improved replacement boot that prevents foot injuries while meeting the Navy’s strict safety footwear requirements.

The 1,001 Safety Success Stories Web site is dedicated to publicizing Navy and Marine Corps successes in safety, and its organizers encourage units to submit their stories to add to the site. Submitters should include details about how a resolved problem, new program, award, or innovative technology prevented or could prevent work-related injury, illness, disability, or death.

Guidelines for submitting success stories are listed on the Web site.

- Submission of success stories is limited to Navy and

Marine Corps civilian or military employees who have cleared the information with their immediate supervisors.

- Have your Public Affairs Officer review the story.
- Remember this Web site is open to the public as a means of advertising Navy and Marine Corps successes. Do not include restricted photos or sensitive information.
- Include two to four photographs (preferably action shots showing one or more of the people who benefit from the success) that help illustrate your story. Before-and-after photos are very effective. High-resolution is desirable. Send the photographs as separate attachments in .jpeg, .gif, .tif or .bmp format.
 - Provide a point of contact including name, title, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - The audience may know little or nothing about the subject matter, so give some background, spell out acronyms, define technical terms, and explain procedures.
 - Include dates, locations, and job classifications (e.g., industrial hygienist, electrician).
 - When relevant, include test results and meanings.
 - Give credit to the activity and/or key individuals who contributed to the initiative. A quote or two is a real plus.
 - Be specific about the steps taken to resolve a problem, institute a program, qualify for an award, or introduce a new technology.
 - Provide cost avoidance or cost savings information with supporting evidence (figures, dollar amounts, percentages) whenever possible.

Attach your story in .doc or .txt format along with pictures to an e-mail. Send the e-mail with the subject line of “Success Story Entry” to safe-webmaster@navy.mil/.

Naval Safety Center officials hope these stories will further the safety and health initiative by sharing ideas, skills, technology, and programs that continually improve the work environment of our sailors, Marines and civilian personnel. The Department of Defense’s goal is to reduce preventable mishaps by 50 percent in the next two years. Sailors and Marines need to share what works to prevent and reduce mishaps.

“My responsibility to this nation is even greater now, and I feel I can give back more to my country.”

— **Sgt. Kent Sabido,**
Filipino American

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of the new citizens.

“It was more personal to have a speaker who’s been through the same thing,” said Kirton. “He was very exciting.”

Schwarzenegger’s message about giving back to the nation resonated with some of the Depot Marines in attendance.

“I feel even more patriotic,” said Sabido, who hails from the Philippines. “My responsibility to this nation is even greater now, and I feel I can give back more to my country.”

“Serving as a U.S. Marine, I was halfway there,” said Kirton, a native of Guyana. “But I’m here to be a part of this country to the fullest and contribute as much as I can. Now that I’m a citizen, I can do that.”

Schwarzenegger wasn’t the only immigrant speaker at the event. USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre, a Cuban immigrant who was naturalized in 1970, also spoke at the ceremony and commended the service members for their commitment to the defense of the nation.

“Thousands of immigrant troops are making extraordinary sacrifices for America, and there is no more fitting way for a grateful nation to demonstrate its appreciation than through expedited citizenship,” he said.

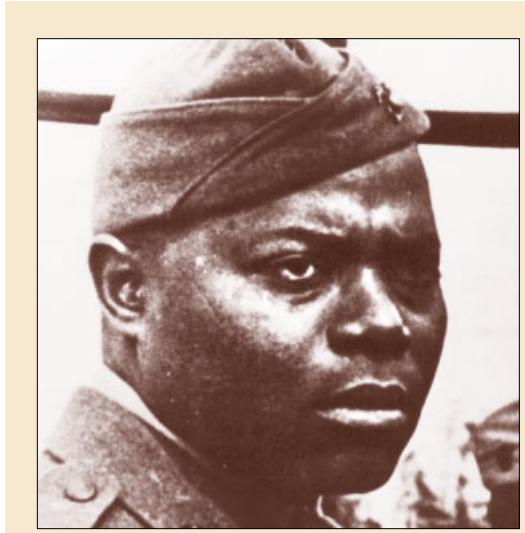
U.S. District Court Judge M. James Lorenz presided over the special ceremony, and Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon III, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, was also on hand to help celebrate the event.

The 207 new Americans represented 43 countries and five continents.

The governor’s closing words seemed to describe the overall feeling in the South Mesa SNCO Club that morning when he said, “We are humbled and honored to have you as fellow countrymen and women, so good luck. Thank you, and Semper Fi.”



Cpl. Renison S. Kirton, administrative clerk, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, repeats the oath of citizenship Jan. 30 during a mass naturalization ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Kirton, who is from Guyana, said, “Serving as a U.S. Marine, I was halfway there.” *Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke/Chevron*



Official USMC photo

GILBERT “HASHMARK” JOHNSON

HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION
hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil

Sgt. Maj. Gilbert “Hashmark” Johnson, one of the first African-Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps, died of a heart attack August 5, 1972 in Jacksonville, N.C., while addressing an annual meeting of the Montford Point Marine Association.

Born in rural Mount Hebron, Ala., Johnson attended Stillman College in 1922, aspiring to become a minister. He left college the following year, however, and joined the Army. At the end of his enlistment in October 1929, Johnson was discharged as a corporal. After four years of civilian life, he decided to try the Navy. The Navy accepted Johnson into the Steward’s Branch, the only job available to blacks at that time, and he served for nearly 10 years. Johnson was aboard the USS Wyoming during the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

The following year, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the integration of the armed forces, Johnson requested transfer from the Navy to the Marine Corps. He went on to serve the last 17 of his 32-year military career in the Marine Corps. Throughout his Marine Corps career, Johnson provided leadership to his younger and less experienced comrades. It was at Montford Point where he earned the name “Hashmark,” because of his age and many years of service.

In 1943, he was among the first black men to be trained as Marine drill instructors. As a member of the 52nd Defense Battalion on Guam in World War II, “Hashmark” asked that black Marines be assigned to combat patrols from which they were currently exempt. Once approved, he personally led 25 combat patrols.

Johnson later served in Korea with the 1st Shore Party Battalion, then later with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, and finally as administrative advisor at the Headquarters of the Korean Marine Corps. Asked if he had experienced any problems as a senior black noncommissioned officer serving in predominantly white units, Johnson characteristically said, “I didn’t encounter any difficulty. I accepted each individual for what he was and apparently they accepted me for what I was.”

Johnson went on to become one of the first black sergeants major in the Marine Corps. Sergeant Major Johnson transferred to the Fleet Marine Force Reserve in 1957 and retired in 1959.

The Montford Point facility at Camp Lejeune was dedicated as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, in honor of this outstanding Marine, April 1974.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Come together

Depot drill instructors celebrate their heritage

BY GUNNERY SGT. DERRICK TOLSTON
Contributing writer

On a recent Friday afternoon, something occurred aboard the Depot that was different from other Fridays.

The new Marines had graduated and there was the usual backup of vehicles leaving the Depot. There were also drill instructors training the next crop of America’s finest fighting force, as well as drill masters preparing for the next graduation ceremony.

The unusual occurrence began around 1 p.m. as a drill instructor approached the DI monument and was greeted by another drill instructor. A few minutes later, there were three other drill instructors approaching the monument followed by several more. They were platoon commanders, series chief drill instructors, senior drill instructors; one was a Drill Instructor School instructor.

What made this unusual was that all the drill instructors were gunnery sergeants and they were all African American.

They gathered to celebrate Black History Month and to pay homage to the Montford Point Drill Instructors.

Some may ask, “What or who is Montford Point?”

The Montford Point facility is considered by many Marines to be the Marine Corps’ third Recruit Depot. From the beginning of the Marine Corps inception until the early 1940s, blacks were prohibited to serve in the Marine Corps. Although the Army and Navy had several blacks distinguish themselves in battle, the Marine Corps refused entry for non-whites.

President Roosevelt issued a presidential directive that gave blacks the right to serve in the Marine Corps. The commandant at the time, Maj. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, testified in front of the General Board of the Navy on January 23, 1942, stating that it was his long-standing opinion that “there would be a definite loss of efficiency in the Marine

Corps if we have to take negroes.”

The Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, unwilling to listen to the reservations of the commandant, began accepting the enlistment of blacks on June 1, 1942.

Separated by dense forest approximately 12 miles from the main camp, training for blacks began at Lejeune Marine Corps Base, New River, N.C.

Few knew of Montford Point’s existence.

The drill instructors were initially all white officers and noncommissioned officers. Eventually there were several black sergeants and corporals trained to replace the white drill instructors. The first black sergeant major of Montford Point was Charles F. Anderson, a Morehouse College graduate.

In 1949, Montford Point closed down after training more than 21,000 recruits and turning them into what we know today as the few, the proud, the United States Marines.

Before graduating their Marines, I believe senior drill instructors today should read Sgt. Maj. Gilbert “Hashmark” Johnson’s words addressing veterans. They echo true to this day:

“I was an ogre to some of you that met me on the drill field and in the huts of Montford more than a quarter century ago. I was a stern instructor, but I was fair. I was an exacting instructor, but with some understanding of the many problems involved. I kept before me, always, that nearly impossible goal to qualify in a few weeks, and at the most a few months, a type of Marine fully qualified in every respect to wear that much-cherished globe and anchor. You were untied. The objectives were to qualify you with loyalty, with a devotion to duty, and with a determination equal to all, transcended by none ... As I look into your faces tonight, I remember the youthful, and sometimes pained expressions at something I may have said ... but I remember something you did. You measured up, by a slim margin perhaps, but measure up you did. You achieved your goal.”



Gunnery sergeants on drill instructor duty here gather at the Drill Instructor Monument. *MCRD Yearbook Office*

Free tax assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office is up and running. The office provides free tax service for active duty and retired service members and their dependents. Located in the Headquarters Company classroom, Building 6W, the office operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 to 11 a.m., and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday the office is open from 7:30 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6:30 p.m. Appointments are available, but walk-ins are accepted as well. Anyone filing taxes through the office should call before coming in to find out what documents and information to bring with them. For more information, call (619) 524-8107 or 8109.

Upcoming Martial Arts Instructor Course

The Martial Arts Instructors Course begins aboard the Depot Feb. 13. and runs until March 5. Marines enrolled in the course will be assigned temporary additional duty for three weeks. The MAI course provides the opportunity to earn a secondary military occupational specialty of 8551 and later 8552. In addition to earning a secondary MOS, Marines will have the opportunity to make a significant difference in the training of future Marines and also to influence seasoned Marines. There is still time to enroll in the course, and NCOs and above who are up to the challenge of becoming a Marine Corps martial arts instructor should inform their chain of command of their desire as soon as possible and contact the Martial Arts Training Facility to find out all prerequisites. While the course is in progress, Marines not enrolled who are interested in advancing further in MCMAP can participate in some of the drills and training evolutions. However, they must coordinate with the MAI trainers at least 24 hours prior to an event. For more information, call the MATF at (619) 524-5114.

Free Valentine's Day photographs at USO

The San Diego USO will celebrate Valentine's Day with professional photography sessions and photos for all active duty military members and their families. The USO will offer free sittings Feb. 14 in a portable studio at the downtown USO center. A professional photographer will donate his talents from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All active-duty service members and their dependents and loved ones are invited to join the USO as they "capture a moment in time." Free 4 by 6 inch prints will be available for pick-up at the USO after Feb. 24. Additional prints will also be

made available online and those details will be disbursed the day of the event. All interested participants must be pre-registered no later than 9 p.m. Feb. 13. For more information, call Kate Juergens at (619) 235-6503 or e-mail her at Kate@USOSanDiego.org

Liberty Run/Walk volunteers needed

The Liberty Run/Walk Freedom from Domestic Violence is a 4-mile/run/walk across the Coronado Bay Bridge to help raise awareness and funds for programs to prevent domestic violence in San Diego County. The event takes place April 4. For volunteer information or entry forms, contact the volunteer coordinator at infor@kinaneevents.com or call (760) 434-7706 or go to www.kinaneevents.com and click on Liberty Run/Walk.

Financial Fitness Seminars

The Community Service Center is hosting a series of free monthly Brown Bag Lunch Seminars on Personal Financial Fitness topics ranging from the "Secrets of Financial Success" to "Things to Teach Your Kids About Money." The seminars last from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Service Center Classroom, Building 26. Anyone interested can call 619-524-5728 to register. The seminars are open to all who are interested, including family members, but will be limited to the first 40 people to call and register. Light snacks and drinks will be provided free of charge, but attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch. For more information, contact Michael McIsaac at (619) 524-1204.

NMCRS Travers program available for dependents

As of this year, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is bringing the children of retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel and the spouses of active duty personnel back into the loan portion of the Travers program. The Travers Loan Only application is now available at www.nmcrs.org. The deadline for submitting the applications is March 1 for the 2004-2005 school year.

CPR Saturday is coming

The American Red Cross will hold its annual CPR Saturday Feb. 28. The Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help Feb. 27 to 28, and March 1. For information, call Rich Creiglow at (619) 532-9573 or (619) 588-7247. To register as a volunteer, call the Red Cross at (619) 542-7699. Lunch is provided and all volunteers will receive a CPR Saturday shirt.

Scholarships for military youth

Children of active duty, retired and reserve service members can apply for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program. Unmarried dependents with an ID card can apply for the \$1,500 academic scholarships through Feb. 18. Applicants must be under 21 years old (23 if enrolled as a full-time student) and have a grade point average of at least 3.0. For more information, log on to www.militaryscholar.org.

Band looking for Marines

Marine Band San Diego is looking for Marines aboard the Depot to fill open musician billets in an on-the-job-training status with the goal of becoming a Marine musician. Marines, private through sergeant, may audition for band assignments providing they receive permission from their sections. An audition consists of performing a prepared selection, major and minor scales, and sight reading. Typical experience of successful Marine musicians consists of four years in a high school band prior to enlisting, but it is not a requirement to audition. Marine Band San Diego currently has vacancies for flute/piccolo, clarinet, saxophone, horn, trombone and guitar. To set up an audition or receive more information, call Staff Sgt. Michael July at (619) 524-1754 or E-mail him at julyma@mcrdsd.usmc.mil.

Designated Driver volunteers needed

The Designated Drivers Association is looking for volunteers in an effort to cut down on DUI offenses. Volunteers can meet new people, earn extra money in tips, and make a difference. Drunk drivers kill almost 17,000 Americans and injure over 700,000 each year. Volunteering for the Designated Drivers Association is a pro-active way to get involved in the community. Volunteers must be at least 18 and have a valid driver's license and insurance. For more information, visit www.ddasd.org or call (866) 373-7233.

Submit possible briefs to the Chevron via E-mail to rockee@mcrdsd.usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards and regulations of the U.S. Government.



PULL-UPS



CRUNCHES



3-MILE RUN

INSANE INDIA

physical fitness
TESTS
mental toughness

PHOTOS BY SGT. LEONARD F. LANGSTON
Chevron staff

PULL-UPS Pvt. Diego Camargolozano, Platoon 3141, demonstrates his might by pulling a perfect score of 20 pull-ups.

CRUNCHES PFC LaNell Lamkin, Platoon 3137, bears down on the crunches portion of the physical fitness test. After the two minutes expired, he immediately muttered a few disappointing words. He finished with 93 crunches, seven shy of a perfect score.

3-MILE RUN PFC David T. Meredith, Platoon 3139, leads all recruits after the first mile of the three-mile run. He finished at 17 minutes, 10 seconds, the fastest time in the company. Eighteen minutes is a perfect score.

EDUCATORS WORKSHOP



Chicago, Milwaukee educators storm Edson Range

Cpl. Cory A. Foster, field instructor, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, explains a Crucible station to Rusty W. Bluse and Robyn Anderson, both guidance counselors from Milwaukee, at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Educators visited and toured Edson Range Tuesday during their week-long visit to San Diego in conjunction with Recruiting Stations Milwaukee and Chicago's annual Educators Workshop. Twelve times each year, the Western Recruiting Region hosts approximately 80 high school and junior college educators, counselors and administrators. During the visits, the educators witness Marine Corps recruit training, air-wing operations and amphibious assault vehicle training.

Cpl. Shawn Toussaint/Chevron



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS MORE THAN A DAY CARE

STORY BY LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff



s Marine Corps cadences echo around the Depot, faint laughter resounds just beyond the recruit-training boundaries. While drill instructors transform men into Marines, another team of individuals nurtures the playful spirit of youth at the Child Development Center here.

For the past 25 years, the CDC has been caring for children of service members stationed in the local area, according to Carol P. Young, who has taught here for more than 19 years.

The CDC staff commits to being more than just a day-care center for the 2-to-5-year-old children in their charge.

"It's not a day care," said Young. "We're more along the lines of a preschool."

The teachers are devoted to preparing 65 children for kindergarten by teaching them the basic learning fundamentals needed in elementary school.

"Our job is to take care of the children when their parents can't be with them and help develop the whole child," said CDC director Maureen C. Richmond, whose daughter is among those at the center.

"Parents at work want peace of mind that their children are safe and well cared for," Richmond said. "We take care of that for them."

One of Richmond's most important goals is to make sure the children are learning while they attend the CDC.

"We help develop the whole child ... physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively," she said.

The playgrounds give the children an opportunity to challenge themselves physically and develop their growing bodies.

"We develop their social skills by helping them learn to share, resolve conflict and get through the beginnings of getting along with others," said Richmond. The staff helps the children grow emotionally by teaching them to express their feelings positively and helping them adapt to spending time away from their parents.

"We help them get ready to learn in school," Richmond said. "In the basics, they learn colors and numbers. They learn to love learning, which helps get them ready for kindergarten."

The Depot's CDC is one of many in Navy Region Southwest, where all centers are logistically and operationally similar. The uniqueness of the CDC here is in its size.

"It's the smallest," said Richmond. "It has no kitchen because of its size, and we also don't allow children under 2."

The food for the center comes from the Naval Medical Center San Diego's CDC.

According to assistant director Shannon L. Morgan, the size allows them to be more like a family.

"It is more intimate," she said. "The children know all the teachers, and all the teachers know every child and the child's parents. There is a lot of bonding."

According to Young, children do better in a small environment because they are not lost in the shuffle of things.

The fact that the CDC staff's turnover rate is very low increases the center's efficiency as well. Two of the 10 teachers have been there less than three years, promoting consistency at the center.

The children know they will be back with the same teachers if they leave for a period of time, such as a summer vacation, according to Morgan.

The CDC strives to provide the best environment possible for its children, and that commitment helped the center earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children recently.

For now, as long as Marines continue to train here, children will continue to play here.



Daiyon Brooks and Destiny Cox work together, swinging back and forth at the Child Development Center.



Manami Thomas gives her mother, Satomi, a hug at the playground after a day of learning and playing at the Child Development Center.



Acting like the little boys they are, Spencer Clark, Jaelen Fant and Nikolas Matousek plot their next activity inside their tunnel-lair on the Child Development Center playground.



Jaiden Phillips slides down head first as Jordan Crawford takes a more cautious approach to the slide at the Child Development Center playground. After a nap and snack time, the children play outside from 3 p.m. until their parents arrive.

GETTING GREEN AGAIN

San Diego recruiters dig deep, get back to roots during trip to field

BY SGT. MIKE CAMACHO
12th Marine Corps Recruiting District

If the term “focus” is an adjustment for distinct vision and a state or condition permitting clear perception or understanding, then Recruiting Station San Diego had “focus” in mind for its staff noncommissioned officers in charge during a trip back to their roots. Nicknamed, “Regreening,” the three-day, two-night outing allowed the small unit leaders throughout the recruiting stations area of responsibility to reflect on who they are: Marines.

Maj. Dan Wilson, Recruiting Station San Diego commanding officer, took 15 of his staff NCOICs to the field for a slightly different approach to a group focus meeting January 14 to 16 at the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

At first, the idea didn’t appeal to all the attendees. Some thought they could use their time more effectively. Going to the field wasn’t their idea of a good focus meeting.

However, some were actually very excited about the training. “This is one of the many reasons why I joined the Corps: sleeping under the stars, land navigation, weapons, all of the stuff that keeps the Corps alive,” said Staff Sgt. David J. Griffin, Recruiting Substation Poway SNCOIC.

The first day included a hike up to the bivouac site. The mile-and-a-half movement uphill took about 40 minutes to negotiate. Once on top of the designated shelf, the SNCOICs began setting up their tents for the night. After getting set up, the recruiters immediately began tossing around a football or eating store-bought snacks. One began brewing coffee, while others heckled each other and laughed. Overall, the recruiters were spending their time with each other. Conversations about everything from recruiting and leadership to family values and goals continued throughout the afternoon.

“Seriously, this is a great opportunity for us to get away from the office and re-experience the camaraderie of being a Marine in the field,” said Capt. Christopher Windisch, station executive officer.

Wilson’s intentions for a leadership exchange were highlighted with visits from two sergeants major in the Recruiting Command. Each night included a “fireside talk” with one of the sergeants major. The first night’s guest was Sgt. Maj. Horrace T. Farley, 12th Marine Corps District, and the second night’s was Sgt. Maj. Jon M. Wertjes, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Each shared his commander’s vision, intent and direction, while also exchanging philosophies of leadership. Farley gave the recruiters examples of what not to do, and he gave examples on how to do things right. Wertjes hit on the reason for the trip. He said it’s the roots of being a Marine that will make them successful as recruiters.

“This is exactly what I was looking for,” said Wilson. “I wanted the Marines to hear and interact with their leaders in this type of setting. I think this is something that will stay with these Marines for quite some time.”

Master Gunnery Sgt. John A. Klimek, Recruiting Substation San Bernardino staff noncommissioned officer in charge, plots the check points for his team during a classroom period at the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif. The team of three career recruiters; Klimek, Master Sgt. Eric W. Aliste, RSS Temecula SNCOIC and Gunnery Sgt. Owen Usher, RSS Oceanside SNCOIC, work together daily to accomplish monthly recruiting missions, and now they’ve also worked together in the field.
Sgt. Mike Camacho/12th District



Master Gunnery Sgt. John A. Klimek, Recruiting Substation San Bernardino staff noncommissioned officer in charge, shoots his team’s azimuth during a land-navigation course at the School of Infantry, Recruiting Station San Diego’s 15 recruiting substation staff noncommissioned officers in charge headed to the field to refocus on the greener side of the Marine Corps. *Sgt. Mike Camacho/12th District*

The Marines woke up early the second morning with hot food and coffee. After breakfast, the Marines marched back down the hill and straight into a classroom. Instructors from SOI gave the recruiters a class on land navigation. The 15 recruiters divided into five teams of three. The command group chose the teams to intermingle recruiters who typically didn’t mix.

Once the teams formed, they plotted their points on maps and headed to the start point.

The last team to start included Master Gunnery Sgt. John A. Klimek, RSS San Bernardino, Master Sgt. Eric W. Aliste, RSS Temecula and Gunnery Sgt. Owen

Usher, RSS Oceanside. These career recruiters had a slow start because they misunderstood instructions. Once they figured them out, they were on the move.

Initially there was confusion; however, the team charged ahead working together. Aliste was the point man for Klimek, who was shooting the azimuth. Usher was pace counting to keep track of distance traveled. The combination of teamwork and momentum worked. The three Marine recruiters climbed up and down hills without hesitation. Before long, the three points were discovered and they were heading back with a newfound understanding of each other.

“This is awesome stuff,” said Aliste. “It breaks up the month-to-month routine. This is our roots, and it’s what most of us wanted from the Corps. For some of us who’ve been on the streets for a while, it’s been a long time since we’ve done anything like this.”

After the land navigation course, the recruiters headed over to the indoor simulated marksmanship trainer.

The recruiters fired simulated versions of the M16-A2 service rifle, the M-203 grenade launcher, the M-249 squad automatic weapon, the AT-4 anti-tank weapon, the M-240G machine gun and the .50-caliber machine gun.

After the simulator exercise, the recruiters hiked back up to the bivouac site for their last night together.

The recruiters, again, were talking, laughing and enjoying each other’s company. However, things were a little different. Instead of small groups here and there, everyone formed one big group.

“This was what I wanted in this focus: team building, morale building and a reflection on our roots,” said Wilson.

Senior drill instructor gets second chance to prove himself

BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON
Chevron staff

In Sgt. Mauricio Ramirez’s first training cycle, he earned the Gunnery Sgt. Nichols Award as his company’s best new drill instructor.

After reaching high accolades early, he became intensely aggressive, intent on being the best. But his intensity reached a point where battalion leaders had to fix his behavior. He was assigned away from the Depot squad bays to assist as an instructor on a firing course at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif. There he could reflect on what

the Corps expected of him.

He has since rebounded with help from his peers. And with his enthusiasm for the drill field, he never skipped a beat. He is now the senior drill instructor for Platoon 3141, Company I.

“I came back to make a new impression on the new drill instructors ... instead of (letting) my reputation speak for itself,” said Ramirez. “The first year you feel you have to impress the drill instructors, and competition is always strong. In the spirit of competition I like to talk a lot of trash, and to do that, I have to perform.”

Impressing the company with his work ethic,



Sgt. Mauricio Ramirez is a recipient of the Gunnery Sgt. Nichols Award, a top drill instructor award. *Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron*

passion to teach and dependability proved to be effortless for Ramirez.

“Hands down, he is the most outstanding drill instructor in India Company,” said Staff Sgt. John P. Saul, a Co. I chief drill instructor. “Fortunately, I had the opportunity to work with him, and anyone who has worked with him shares that same attitude.”

Ramirez admits to being down on himself and losing a bit of motivation, but his peers encouraged him to return.

He attributes much of his success to Saul and another drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Gabriel Cano

SEE **Ramirez, pg. 10**

THIRSTY for MORE

COLLEGE START GROOMS MARINE FOR SUCCESS

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Most Marine Corps recruits arrive on the Depot fresh out of high school. For many, it’s the first time being away from home with no experience as self-sufficient adults. These men need a peer to lead them through recruit life’s intensity.

That leader for Platoon 2143, Company I, was Lance Cpl. Justin Lewis, a 23-year-old who has five years of adulthood and some formal education under his belt.

Subconsciously groomed for the Corps at an early age, Lewis grew up in a Marine family in Edina, Minn. His parents, Terry and Sandy Lewis both served in the Corps, along with several other family members.

“I was around the Marines a lot as a kid,” said the 6-foot-2-inch guide. “When my dad was away, I would put on his uniforms and look at myself in the mirror.”

The thought of the Corps lurked in the back of Lewis’ mind as he went through high school, staying in shape by playing football as a wide receiver. After graduation, he packed his things and moved to Boulder, Colo., to study psychology at the University of Colorado.

“I was ready to get out on my own,” said Lewis. “My parents never pushed me toward the Corps. My mom wanted me to get an education, so I made a promise to do it.”

Lewis never qualified for scholarships, so college costs rested squarely on his shoulders.

Lewis worked full-time while taking classes and had trouble balancing his hectic schedule. He dropped out of school for a year with a plan to lower his tuition, making college more realistic for him.

“I dropped out to work full time, save money and become a Colorado resident,” said Lewis.

Out-of-state students pay higher tuition, so Lewis worked full time for a year, proving his independence, thus making him an independent adult, and a Colorado resident.

With his residency established, Lewis reenrolled at U.C., ready to continue his quest for a degree.

“I was doing well for a couple years, but the burden got to be too much,” said Lewis. “I lost my drive and didn’t really know what I wanted. The costs were too much and I dropped out.”

Just as one door closed, another door opened when his college roommate, Jared Linville, invited him to talk to a Marine recruiter. Linville was in the Delayed Entry Program and wanted Lewis to join too.

“I jumped at the chance,” said Lewis. “I reached a point where I needed to do something else with my life. I needed discipline. As soon as I walked in the door, I was like, ‘All right, let’s do it.’”

Lewis entered the DEP and arrived on the Depot Nov. 10, 2003, but Linville changed his mind and didn’t ship out. He said he wasn’t very surprised with the hostile atmosphere and adjusted very early.

“My recruiter and parents prepared me pretty well,” said Lewis. “I knew what to expect early on.”

Lewis was obviously a little older than most of his fellow recruits, and his maturity showed through, according to Staff Sgt. Chris McGuire, Lewis’ senior drill instructor.

“When he got here, we could see his maturity was at a higher level,” said McGuire. “We made him the guide for that reason.”



Lance Cpl. Justin Lewis, Platoon 3143, Company I, drinks from his canteen after intense physical activity. Being the company’s most outstanding recruit, Lewis was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal. *Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron*

Although he never earned his degree, Lewis’ psychology education, combined with his life experiences of being on his own, allowed him to counsel and mentor his fellow recruits.

“Lewis is full of knowledge,” said Pvt. Devin Morris, one of Lewis’ platoon mates. “There have been a couple times when I’ve lost my temper, but Lewis pulled me aside. He helped me realize the root of my problem. He’s done that with a lot of the recruits. He always gives good advice.”

Lewis’ wisdom and maturity have also helped him persevere through adversity while in recruit training, which included losing his leadership billet.

“The platoon was on an eight-mile hike and Lewis was next to me,” said McGuire. “He fell and broke his nose on his helmet. We marched on, and after he recovered, he caught back up and finished the hike at the front

of the platoon. He was put on light duty, so we had to hire a new guide. As soon as he healed up, he worked his way back to being the guide.”

Lewis graduates today as the company honorman, a title reserved for the most outstanding recruit in the company. He was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal.

“(Last Thursday) I was having my dress blues fitted,” said Lewis. “I looked in the mirror and flashed back to when I was a kid trying on my dad’s uniforms. They never fit then, but now the uniform fits me pretty good.”

After trying life on his own and pursuing a higher education, Lewis has found himself under the wing of the Corps. Although he hasn’t earned his degree, he has been wise enough to put his experiences to practical use to benefit those who need it most: the kids who are fresh out of high school.

INSANE INDIA



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. J.A. Lewis
Boulder, Colo.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. D. Badders



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC L. C. Fu
San Marino, Calif.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. S. Lopez



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC A. M. Antuna
Orange Cove, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. A. Hamilton



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC D. C. Puelston
Farmington, Minn.
Recruited by
Sgt. W. Brown III



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC J. D. Besonen
Hancock, Mich.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. Polich



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC M. C. Rice
Sheridan, Wyo.
Recruited by
Sgt. M. Golden



HIGH SHOOTER (241)
PFC R. A. Maxwell
Conroe, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. D. Hill



HIGH PFT (300)
PFC C. S. Palmore
Greenwood, Ind.
Recruited by
Sgt. D. J. Lerner

**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT
& WESTERN RECRUITING REGION**
Commanding General
BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
Commanding Officer
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD
Regimental Drill Master
GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR.
Parade Adjutant
STAFF SGT. P. J. ALLEN
Narrator
STAFF SGT. R. I. VILLANUEVA

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES
Band Master
GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS

COLOR GUARD
SGT. E. COLE
SGT. J. D. HULETTE
PVT. S. R. PIERSON
PVT. T. J. JOHNSTON

3RD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. J. R. Ewers Jr.
Chaplain
Lt. J. K. Manila
Sergeant Major
1st Sgt. A. D. Miller
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. B. M. Fuller

COMPANY I
Commanding Officer
Capt. B. E. Hutcherson
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. D. C. Edwards
Company Corpsman
Petty Officer 3rd Class N. Lugo

SERIES 3137
Series Commander
1st Lt. Shull
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. D.O. Maloy

SERIES 3141
Series Commander
Capt. W. P. Brown
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. J. P. Saul

PLATOON 3137
Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. J. S. Gonzales
Drill Instructors
Sgt. S. M. Salazar
Sgt. A. W. Schneider

PFC G. C. Aitch II
Pvt. M. K. Anderson
Pvt. L. A. Ashley
Pvt. D. A. Ayers
Pvt. I. G. Banuelos
PFC J. Barajasmore
Pvt. Z. A. Callison

Pvt. S. A. Carlisle
Pvt. A. T. Carter
Pvt. M. A. Castaneda
Pvt. R. J. Castaneda
Pvt. B. R. Castellanos
Pvt. C. Castellon
PFC J. W. Chan
PFC S. T. Childress
PFC A. M. Clopton
PFC J. A. Cooper
Pvt. M. R. Cope
Pvt. J. R. Darnell
Pvt. T. T. Delmer
Pvt. T. J. Doyle
Pvt. B. G. Eastman
PFC M. S. Edwards
PFC C. M. Endfield
Pvt. J. L. Estrella
*PFC L. C. Fu
PFC M. A. Fuentes
Pvt. A. Garcia
Pvt. E. P. R. Giron
PFC V. Gonzalez
Pvt. P. M. Green
Pvt. S. B. Grove
*PFC H. B. Harris
Pvt. C. P. Hoover
Pvt. L. O. Humphress
Pvt. M. J. Hutson
Pvt. C. T. Huttenmaier
Pvt. N. R. Isbell
PFC M. T. Jackson
*PFC J. L. Jensen
Pvt. A. D. Jimenez
Pvt. H. A. Jimenez
PFC L. A. Lamkin
Pvt. J. A. Lango-Cortes
Pvt. J. A. Laplant
PFC J. J. Lund
PFC G. K. Mathiesen
PFC R. A. Maxwell
Pvt. C. W. McClendon
PFC C. V. McGrew
Pvt. D. O. McNutt
*PFC M. A. Rivera
Pvt. C. E. Ussery

PLATOON 3138
Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. C. T. Balcazar
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. R. Williams
Staff Sgt. B. D. Rivers

Pvt. M. A. Alvarado
PFC R. O. Alvarado
PFC A. M. Antuna
Pvt. R. M. Arnone
PFC J. R. Aylmer
Pvt. J. L. Babcock
PFC I. Barrera
PFC L. R. Bernabe
Pvt. J. A. Bettis
Pvt. D. P. Binek
Pvt. T. C. Bos
PFC P. R. Bowron
Pvt. J. V. Bracero
Pvt. M. A. Catalano
PFC F. P. Charley
Pvt. A. Cholewa
Pvt. D. A. Clark
Pvt. A. M. Claxton
Pvt. J. P. Cooper
Pvt. J. R. Darlage
Pvt. K. D. Davis
Pvt. T. N. Dean
Pvt. D. D. Dixon
Pvt. C. A. Dobbins
*PFC R. C. Dowell
Pvt. E. W. Edson
Pvt. D. W. Elder
*PFC M. Espinosa
Pvt. K. M. Fitzgerald
Pvt. J. A. Fraley
Pvt. C. R. Fritz
Pvt. J. T. Gambin
Pvt. E. Garcia
Pvt. R. S. Geronimo
Pvt. J. G. Gervickas
Pvt. E. A. Gochmour
Pvt. G. A. Gonzales
Pvt. S. E. Gonzalez
Pvt. A. I. Gonzalez

*PFC C. E. Guerra
Pvt. J. C. Guevara
Pvt. J. J. Gutierrez
Pvt. J. G. Heilmann
Pvt. G. R. Hensley
PFC M. L. Hicks
Pvt. B. R. Hinton
Pvt. A. M. Hogue
Pvt. A. Hurtado
Pvt. M. A. Ingram
PFC T. H. Jackson
Pvt. Z. S. Jenkins
Pvt. J. R. Jensen
*PFC R. C. Johnson
Pvt. J. R. Qualls
PFC N. L. Robbins
Pvt. B. Rus

PLATOON 3139
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. Menusa
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. E. R. Rogers
Sgt. Z. P. Hervey
Sgt. E. A. Good

*PFC F. Alonzo Jr.
Pvt. T. L. Barshlow
PFC A. C. Buchanan
Pvt. S. J. Burkes
Pvt. T. P. Camacho
Pvt. A. A. Camargotorres
Pvt. M. I. Cervantes
Pvt. J. W. Cheevers
*PFC T. J. Clymens
Pvt. E. I. Corral
Pvt. M. G. Densley
PFC D. M. Dimucci
Pvt. A. J. Eckert
Pvt. D. J. Eggers
Pvt. E. C. Ferguson
Pvt. A. F. Ficks
Pvt. M. E. Frederick-Dupuis
Pvt. J. Garza II
Pvt. R. M. Haney
Pvt. N. J. Hannigan
PFC J. E. Hatathli
*PFC M. J. Hendren
Pvt. K. L. Homer
Pvt. E. Ibarra
Pvt. D. Jimenez Jr.
Pvt. D. A. Jones
Pvt. J. L. Kendrick
Pvt. S. L. Laws
Pvt. G. Lee
Pvt. E. R. Leonardo
Pvt. G. E. Madere
PFC D. J. Marchese
Pvt. J. A. Martinez
PFC D. T. Meredith
PFC E. K. Merz
PFC G. L. Miller
Pvt. N. T. Moran
Pvt. J. L. Nowacki
Pvt. D. C. Opicka
Pvt. D. J. Potter
Pvt. T. L. Powell
*PFC D. C. P. Uelston
PFC J. B. Reneau
PFC N. L. Renwick
Pvt. G. D. Reyes
PFC R. N. Roebuck
Pvt. S. O. Rojas
Pvt. M. A. Sahling
Pvt. D. L. Salazar
Pvt. J. R. Sanchez
Pvt. C. C. Son
Pvt. G. A. Stone

PLATOON 3141
Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. M. Ramirez
Drill Instructors
Sgt. S. D. Thompson
Sgt. L. B. Walters
Sgt. A. I. Salazar

Pvt. C. L. Anderson
Pvt. R. L. Andres Jr.
*PFC V. M. Avila
Pvt. M. L. Barbour
Pvt. N. A. Bernhardt
*PFC J. A. Besonen
Pvt. N. S. Bestudik
Pvt. B. R. Bolland
Pvt. A. C. Burrows
Pvt. D. A. Camargolozano
Pvt. C. S. Campbell
PFC S. C. Campbell
PFC J. T. Carr
Pvt. K. G. Collier
Pvt. J. R. Coombs
Pvt. J. B. Dressler
Pvt. W. P. Edmonds
Pvt. J. P. Franklin
PFC A. W. Genthner
Pvt. C. J. Goff
Pvt. B. D. Golden
Pvt. J. L. Goldsby
PFC R. C. Gonzalez
Pvt. D. Guzman
Pvt. J. L. Harter
Pvt. N. J. Johnson
Pvt. K. A. Kempinski
PFC M. R. Kester
Pvt. M. J. Kindler
Pvt. M. G. Lee
Pvt. T. J. Martin
PFC J. L. McDonald
Pvt. J. L. Morgan
PFC L. A. Olson
Pvt. C. J. Ornelasfigeroa
Pvt. R. N. Ortega
Pvt. D. D. Painter
PFC C. R. Pankow
Pvt. T. P. Schroppe
Pvt. F. A. Shipp Jr.
PFC M. D. Sisco
PFC M. D. Suggs
PFC J. H. Udui
Pvt. R. Y. Vargas Jr.
*PFC J. W. Wadkins
Pvt. D. J. Welkley
*PFC G. E. Widmar
Pvt. D. S. Wilson
PFC D. L. Wor



Company I recruits stand by during their Company Commander's inspection. Sgt. L. F. Langston/ Chevron

Pvt. E. J. Rodriguez
*PFC T. F. Rose
PFC A. A. Sanchezsanchez
Pvt. C. D. Scott
Pvt. J. Seu
Pvt. A. A. Shaw
PFC S. P. Sheller
Pvt. J. P. Shuey
PFC B. R. Simma
Pvt. L. A. Sipres Jr.
Pvt. C. R. Smith
PFC C. T. Spencer
Pvt. J. Garza II
Pvt. R. A. Stormer
PFC J. F. Struve Jr.
Pvt. P. M. Taggart
Pvt. W. T. Tolbert
Pvt. W. M. Torres
PFC M. Vega III
Pvt. M. Villegasgamez
Pvt. C. L. Vought
Pvt. R. N. Waldrop
*PFC B. W. Walker
Pvt. A. R. Walz

Pvt. P. J. Martini
Pvt. J. A. Mathis
*PFC M. S. McDaid
*PFC T. D. McDonald
*PFC K. G. McGill
PFC M. L. Mollo
Pvt. D. W. Morris
Pvt. J. A. Morris
Pvt. T. J. Muradian
Pvt. D. P. Nunes
Pvt. J. Ortegaacorrea
*Pvt. C. S. Palmore
PFC S. J. Perez
Pvt. S. R. Pierson
PFC B. C. Regnitz
PFC L. A. Reyes
Pvt. J. C. Robinson
Pvt. J. D. Roby
Pvt. P. Rodriguez
Pvt. M. A. Rubingh
Pvt. R. L. Schmidt
PFC P. A. Sewell
PFC M. J. Shear
PFC J. R. Siepl
PFC J. W. Siroky
Pvt. M. C. Sola
Pvt. G. V. Solorio
Pvt. C. A. Torres
PFC B. E. Stewart
Pvt. J. L. Swanson
Pvt. A. S. Taylor
PFC F. J. Toth
PFC R. J. Toth
Pvt. T. W. Trombley
Pvt. J. M. Waletzko
Pvt. J. L. Welch
PFC D. L. Wilson
Pvt. J. P. Wojtowicz

PLATOON 3142
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. A. Staton
Drill Instructors
Sgt. P. J. Hermges
Staff Sgt. C. E. Allen
Staff Sgt. P. Veracruz

Pvt. W. A. Abarca
Pvt. N. J. Albano
Pvt. Z. B. Baker
PFC J. E. Bell
Pvt. F. A. Gutierrez II
*PFC A. C. Hays
Pvt. R. J. Jones
Pvt. T. Lee
Pvt. B. K. Lynn
PFC T. A. Meranda Jr.
Pvt. B. Meuangkhote
Pvt. C. D. Meyer
PFC C. L. Morey
Pvt. E. A. Morris
Pvt. C. J. Donallo
Pvt. F. Garza
Pvt. T. J. Johnston
Pvt. W. K. Jones
Pvt. C. J. Kafka
Pvt. J. F. Quintatobe
PFC J. A. Lewis
Pvt. J. R. Lomoro
Pvt. J. B. Lopez
Pvt. S. R. Rhinehart
Pvt. M. Maldonado
Pvt. P. Maldonado
Pvt. B. V. Martinez
Pvt. G. G. Martinez



(From left) PFC Andrew C. Buchanan, Platoon 3139; PFC Michael A. Rivera, Platoon 3137; Pvt. Mark A. Rubingh, Platoon 3143; Pvt. Douglas A. Ayers, Platoon 3137; PFC Demetius M. Dimucci, Platoon 3139, and Pvt. Gary A. Stone, Platoon 3139, wait to rappel through a hole atop the Depot rapell tower. Sgt. L. F. Langston/ Chevron



Company I recruits read a sign with the Depot records for recruit performance on the physical fitness test. Sgt. L. F. Langston/ Chevron

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from India Company's Platoon 3141 answered Chevron's random questions about their boot camp experiences:

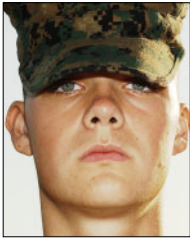
Q: What was your worst civilian job?



Pvt. William P. Edmonds II
San Luis Obispo, Calif.

A: My painting job because of my boss, but I think I can handle him now.

Q: How many letters came during mail call?



Pvt. Nicholas S. Bestudik
Springfield, Ill.

A: On average ... 12 or 13 letters. This was enough.

Q: What's did you miss most from civilian life?



Pvt. Michael L. Barbour
Fishers, Ind.

A: Television and the football season.

Q: What will you do first when you get home?



PFC Jimmy W. Wadkins
Thayer, Mo.

A: I'll see my family and all my friends, and I gotta see my girl.

Q: Why did you join?



Pvt. Aaron C. Burrows
Riverton, Kan.

A: To become a Marine.



Sgt. Maj. James E. Booker
PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sgt. Maj. James E. Booker currently serves as sergeant major, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. He was born March 9, 1962. He graduated high school in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1980. He entered the Marine Corps Jan. 18, 1983 and completed recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Booker graduated Infantry Training School as a basic infantryman and then reported to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for Remote Sensor Operators Course. He served with the 3rd Marine Division from August 1983 to August 1985 as a team leader and squad leader with the Sensor Control and Management Platoon.

Booker reported to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, in Twentynine Palms, Calif., as a sergeant and served as a radar team leader and scout sniper from September 1985 to October 1986.

Upon reenlistment, Booker reported to Drill Instructor School here. He served in Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, as a junior and senior drill instructor from January 1987 to January 1989.

Booker reported to the 1st Force Reconnaissance Co. as a staff sergeant and served as platoon sergeant from February 1988 to May 1993, making two deployments to the Persian Gulf with I Marine Expeditionary Force and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Desert Stay and Land Pakistani Forces in Somalia.

Booker served from May 1993 to February 1996 with I MEF Special Operations and Training Group in several billets including staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Urban Reconnaissance and Sniper Course, and the special missions branch.

As a gunnery sergeant, Booker served as SNOICQ, 1st Marine Division Scout Sniper School from February 1996 to April 1998.

He was later selected for promotion to first sergeant, and he reported to Co. I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. He made a deployment to the Persian Gulf and North Africa with the 15th MEU in support of Operation Southern Watch and the U.S. Embassy bombing in Kenya.

From May 1999 until July 2001, Booker served as first sergeant, Inspector Instructor Staff, Ordnance Maintenance Company, Waco, Texas.

In July 2001, Booker reported to Headquarters Co., 5th Marine Regiment, and deployed with the 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On May 1, 2003, Booker was promoted to his present rank. He was assigned as 2/4's battalion sergeant major June 19, 2003.

Booker's personal awards include the Bronze Star with Combat V device, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and two Combat Action Ribbons.

Ramirez, from pg. 9
of Field Co., WFTBn.

Ramirez said he loves the drill field. Born in Tijuana, Mexico and raised in Chula Vista, Calif., he joined the Marine Corps in July 1995, shortly after graduating from Castle Park High School in Chula Vista.

Not long after enlisting, he married his longtime sweetheart Ahydee, and they eventually had two sons, both named Manuel.

After serving with the 1st Force Service Support Group, Headquarters and Service Co., Camp Pendleton, Calif., Ramirez requested recruiting duty, but was denied twice. He decided on the drill field and reported to Drill Instructor School here Oct. 2, 2000.

"I took (DI School) one day at a time," said Ramirez. "If I didn't

hear my name being called, I was doing the right thing."

Doing the right thing while training recruits, Ramirez excelled as a top-notch drill instructor.

"He's a real good guy that takes care of his family and is all about training other drill instructors," said Cano.

Ramirez looked to Cano for inspiration.

"The way (Cano) conducted himself impressed me most," said Ramirez. "He's the biggest reason why I've been successful."

Ramirez's lighthearted personality and dedication to his work gives him the enthusiasm to wear the uniform everyday.

"It's about the atmosphere the drill instructors bring that makes it fun and enjoyable," Ramirez said. "Every day is an adventure."

COMING
SOON

Sports program getting overhaul

*MCCS bringing
new open leagues,
awards criteria*

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

While 2003 was a good year for Depot sports, 2004 promises to be even better thanks to some new intramural leagues and incentive awards from Marine Corps Community Services.

"I really want to make sure (Depot) personnel have a chance to participate in more sports this year," said Rachel Dickinson, Depot intramural sports coordinator.

To make this possible, the MCCS athletic department has instituted three new intramural leagues for 2004.

The leagues are called Open Leagues and the sports are basketball, softball and flag football.

"The leagues are open to anyone on the Depot," said Dickinson. "Active duty, reservists and civilian employees can play."

The teams may consist of anyone. If five friends want to start a team, but are all in different units, they may still form a team.

"These leagues aren't varsity or Commanding General's Cup," said Dickinson. "As long as people come play and have fun, mission accomplished."

The coaches meeting for basketball is March 24, and games begin April 7. The meeting for softball is Aug. 4, and games begin Aug. 11. The flag football meeting is Sept. 22, and games begin Sept. 29.

All Open League games are played Wednesday evenings.

Another addition to MCCS Athletics is Depot Athlete of the Year. One male and one female will be nominated based on their CG's Cup participation and performance.

"Depot Athlete of the Year won't necessarily go to the best athletes," said Dickinson. "This award is for those who come out and try the hardest and have the most fun in as many CG's Cup events as possible."

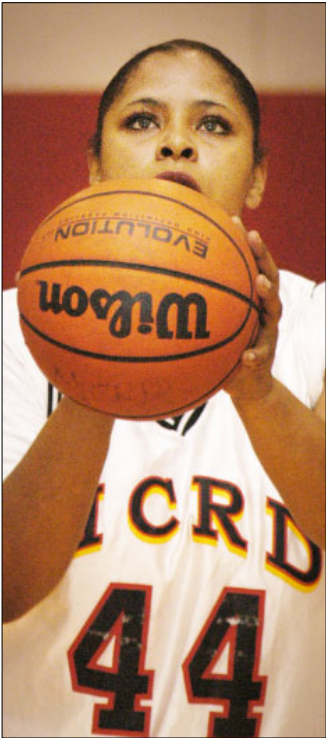
Also, one male and one female will be nominated for Marine Corps Athlete of the Year. These nominees are selected based on their athletic merit, according to Dickinson. Nominees for Depot and Marine Corps Athlete of the Year will be announced at the CG's Cup Field meet at the end of the year.

For more information on Depot athletics, call Dickinson at (619) 524-0548, or stop by the Depot Fitness Center with any questions or concerns.



Miramar guard Lance Cpl. Brandy Robinson muscled into Depot guard Tweet Johnson in the Depot's loss Monday. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

Miramar comeback deflates Depot



Depot center Dee Odom focuses before a free throw in the second half. Odom would later foul out in the Depot's loss. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., women's varsity basketball demolished the Depot's team 75-45 Monday night at the Depot Field House.

From the opening tip, both teams were hot, trading outside shots from three-point land.

The Depot claimed a solid lead toward the end of the neck-and-neck first half. A huge run sparked by the aggressive play of Depot center Dee Odom put the Depot's ladies up 30-23 at half time.

After some inspirational coaching during the intermission, Miramar came out with a lot of motivation and a quick, unrelenting style of play.

Miramar started putting points on the board, and like a red and black tornado, it swept over the court, wrecking all that opposed it.

As if the offensive cyclone wasn't enough, Miramar launched a defensive effort that would've helped the Germans on D-Day.

The forceful play of Miramar power forward Karla Brunteh pounded MCRD deeper and deeper. Her get-out-of-my-house defense and her play in the low post contributed greatly in Miramar's winning effort.

With Brunteh taking center stage, the opportunity for Miramar guard Lance Cpl. Brandy Robinson to heat up presented itself. She knocked down several outside shots and also played stingy defense.

The Depot tried to keep up by adding some late three-pointers, but the attempt was to no avail. The Depot's burden was magnified when Odom and forward Sgt. April Taylor fouled out.

When all was said and done, the clock read goose eggs and Miramar held on to a 30-point lead and allowed only 15 second-half points.

"When we came out in the second half, we knew we had to make them play our game," said Robinson. "When we catch fire, it's hard to put us out. We played great as a team."

Robinson led all scorers. Miramar shooting forward Cpl. Tiffany Gibson came down with several rebounds and fed teammates with assists the entire game. Odom led the Depot with 15 points and played solid defense.

"I'm proud of the team," said Robinson.

Big Blue knocks 12th District off its pedestal

LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
Chevron staff

Third Recruit Training Battalion's Big Blue bested the 12th Marine Corps District 2-1 in Commanding General's Cup Volleyball Tuesday at the Depot field house.

BIG BLUE 19 30 15
DISTRICT 30 27 12

The District came out of the gates with an undefeated 4-0 record.

"We had the mentality that we were going to win automatically," said the District's Staff Sgt. Kurt M. Dayos.

The District appeared to be on its way to another victory when they slid past Big Blue. 30-19 with apparent ease during the first game.

To begin the second game, the teams switched to opposite ends of the court. Play after play, Big Blue held the lead and inched to victory in the second game 30-27.

The District could not escape the hole it had dug.

"We have a good team," Dayos said. "We just beat ourselves today."

Big Blue used good passing and took advantage of the District's lack of communication to win the final game 15-12.

"If we kept our serve in, we had a good chance of getting the point," said Big Blue's Capt. Pat Klokow. "After the second game, the momentum swung our way."

Despite the loss, District players know where they need to improve for the finals.

"Passing is the key," said Dayos. "Pass, set, spike — if you don't pass properly, you can't do the rest. We forgot to cover our blockers, and they mixed it up by hitting different spots we weren't covering."

The District is now 4-1 along with the Coast Guard, putting them in the top two spots for the playoffs, which start Tuesday.

Big Blue will take on the Communication and Information Services Division at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Depot field house.



Capt. Nathan Shull of 3rd Recruit Training Battalion's Big Blue, serves to 12th Marine Corps District. Big Blue had several new players who worked together to stop District's winning streak. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron